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Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SR52/SCR74 -ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND
OTHER AGENCY AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE
MEETING AS A WORKING GROUP FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION
EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

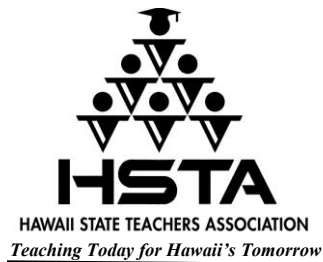
Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SR 52/SCR 74**, encouraging the Department of Education and other agency and community stakeholders to continue meeting as a working group for sexual violence prevention education in public schools.

Schools are, perhaps, the one social institution outside of the family in which children have constant contact with adults and their peers. It is an optimal place, then, to help protect children in danger of sexual violence and exploitation.

Teachers are naturally empathetic toward their students. Yet, studies have shown that up to 81 percent of teachers receive little preservice information about abuse and neglect and only 66 percent have been given inservice (on the job) information. Programs currently exist, in Hawai'i, to train teachers and staff, and provide sexual violence prevention education and support for students of sexual violence, but implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent. It is important that both teachers and students be informed on how to prevent sexual violence and who to turn to for support if it unfortunately occurs.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013 – 2017, it indicated that children and young people in Hawaii experience sexual violence at rates equivalent to or higher than their mainland counterparts, and in some Hawaii counties these rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the United States.



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Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people in Hawaii be taught the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves against sexual assault, obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible, and create a strong culture of respect and non-violence. Moreover, it is critical that parents, educators, and school staff receive sufficient training and information to understand key sexual violence issues and how to respond appropriately.

We are thankful that this working group covers sex trafficking as well. Anti-trafficking lessons are frequently requested by public school teachers to combat student exploitation and are included in coordinated protocols being developed for the Department of Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare System, and Family Courts. Sex trafficking is differentially defined from sexual abuse as the use of "force, fraud, or coercion" in compel someone into the commercial sex trade. Public school students—or children who *should* be in school, but are instead sexually enslaved—can and have been found working as prostitutes at local massage parlors, strip clubs, hostess bars, and the streets of high-risk areas, and are advertised daily on websites like Backpage.com. The average age of a victim's entry into sexual exploitation is in the early to middle teenage years, with vulnerability to exploitation being heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including sexual abuse.

Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also prime targets for pimps, johns, and traffickers, so much so that in 2011, lawmakers added the crime of "solicitation of prostitution near schools or public parks" (HRS 712-1209) to our criminal code. As we increase departmental capacity for intervening in cases sexual violence and abuse, so must we safeguard against the closely related crime of sexual exploitation and provide educators with the tools needed to ease victims' reentry into the classroom setting.

To protect our keiki from sexual exploitation and sexual violence, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks that your committee to **support** SR 52/SCR 74.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action
Network

Hawaii Health & Harm
Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native
Hawaiian Health Care
Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services
& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

March 19, 2019

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SR 52/SCR 74 ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE TO MEET AS A WORKING GROUP FOR SEXUAL- VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SR 52/SCR 74 Encouraging the Department Of Education and Other Stakeholders to Continue to Meet as a Working Group for Sexual-Violence Prevention Education in Public Schools.

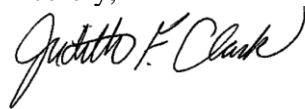
One in five girls and one in twenty boys have been victims of child sexual abuse. Three out of four adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well. (National Center for Victims of Crime data).

The only education I received about sexual abuse or trafficking as a child was to beware of strangers. But it was not a stranger who sexually abused me and five other girls in my fourth grade class – It was my school bus driver. Every child on the bus witnessed the abuse daily for a month or more until someone finally reported it to the school. When we were questioned about it, we believed that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first episode.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

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Date: March 22, 2019

To: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Justin Murakami, Manager, Prevention Education and Public Policy
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of S.R. 52 and S.C.R. 74
Encouraging the Department of Education and other agency and
community stakeholders to continue meeting as a working group for
sexual violence prevention education in public schools.

Good afternoon Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate
Committee on Education:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports S.R. 52 and S.C.R. 74.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and
wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii.

Our local experience is instructive: more than half of the many thousands of
survivors on Oahu that have historically received SATC's services were younger
than 18 years old at the time they were assaulted. In addition, we note that the U.S.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey
2013 - 2017 indicated that children and young people in Hawaii experience sexual
violence at rates equivalent to or higher than their mainland counterparts, and in
some Hawaii counties these rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the
United States.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important
that children and young people in Hawaii be taught the knowledge and skills they
need to protect themselves against sexual assault, obtain help to end abuse as
quickly as possible, and create a strong culture of respect and non-violence.
Moreover, it is critical that parents, educators, and school staff receive sufficient
training and information to understand key sexual violence issues and how to
respond appropriately.

Recognizing this need, the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of
Health (DOH), and SATC are working together and gathering a group of government

and community stakeholders to review and improve the delivery of sexual violence prevention education and training in Hawaii.

S.R. 52 and S.C.R. 74 would further support this effort by encouraging the voluntarily convened working group to continue meeting, and by requesting that the group timely report to the Legislature and the Board of Education about the progress of our work and relevant policy and resource recommendations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.R. 52 and S.C.R. 74.

March 20, 201

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Laura Nevitt, Policy Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SR 52/SCR 74– ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER AGENCY AND
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE MEETING AS A WORKING GROUP FOR SEXUAL
VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS..**

H S Capitol, Room 22 , M 22, 2 45 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), I writing in SUPPORT SR 52/SCR 74.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii.

Our local experience is instructive: more than half of the many thousands of survivors on Oahu that have historically received SATC's services were younger than 18 years old at the time they were assaulted. In addition, we note that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013 - 2017 indicated that children and young people in Hawaii experience sexual violence at rates equivalent to or higher than their mainland counterparts, and in some Hawaii counties these rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the United States.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people in Hawaii be taught the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves against sexual assault, obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible, and create a strong culture of respect and non-violence. Moreover, it is critical that parents, educators, and school staff receive sufficient training and information to understand key sexual violence issues and how to respond appropriately.

Recognizing this need, the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Health (DOH), and SATC are working together and gathering a group of government and community stakeholders to review and improve the delivery of sexual violence prevention education and training in Hawaii.

SR 52 and SCR 74 would further support this effort by encouraging the voluntarily convened working group to continue meeting, and by requesting that the group timely report to the Legislature and the Board of Education about the progress of our work and relevant policy and resource recommendations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SR 52 and SCR 74.

For these reasons, HCAN

SR 52 and SCR 74.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.



LATE

TO: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: March 22, 2019; 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SR 52

We support SR 52 and SCR 74 and offer comments. We thank the legislature for recognizing this area of critical importance and we thank all the Departments and agencies committed to safety and education of children for their work on this issue thus far. We are heartened by this working group encouraging the DOE and other stakeholders to meet for sexual-violence prevention in public schools. At the same time, we are also saddened that, in the meantime, our keiki will continue to learn and grow unprotected from and possibly unaware of predatory abuse because of lack of education, especially in light of recent news both nationally and here in Hawaii. If our intent is to truly educate and protect our keiki from acts of sexual abuse, we would like to encourage the legislature to recognize the sense of urgency and reconsider passing Erin's Law next session.

The abuse is devastating and will continue to happen while the working group convenes:

- 1 in 4 girls will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.
- 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.
- 1 in 5 youth receive a sexual approach or solicitation over the internet.
- The average age for first abuse is 9.6 years of age.
- Only 12% of child sexual abuse is reported to police. Many victims never disclose their abuse to anyone.
- 29% of forcible rapes occur when the victim was under 11 years of age.
- 44% of sexual abuse victims are under the age of 18.
- 93% of juvenile sexual assault victims know their attacker.
- Our Children's Justice Center support over a 1,000 children each year. That's about 3 new children every day (which is still a fraction of all those who are impacted by sexual abuse).

Impacts to victims of child sexual abuse will continue:

- The experience of sexual abuse for a child distorts her or his self-concept, orientation to the world and affective capabilities.
- High rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, dissociative disorders, interpersonal dysfunction, sexual problems, self-mutilation, and suicidal ideation have all been identified to varying degrees among men and women who survive child sexual abuse.
- Child sexual assault victims are 4.7 times more likely to be the subsequent victim of a sex crime.
- Adolescents with a history of sexual abuse are significantly more likely to engage in sexual behavior that puts them at risk for HIV infection.
- When sexually abused children are not treated, society must later deal with resulting problems such as mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, crime, suicide and the perpetuation of a cycle of sexual abuse.
- Victims face higher incidents of poor academic performance and dropping out of high school.
- There is an increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships and difficulty in forming meaningful and trusting relationships.

Cost of Care/Impacts to Hawaii:

- In 2012 a study performed by the Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect stated that low-end estimate for the lifetime cost of each case of child sexual abuse is \$210,000.
- The cost benefit of prevention is 19 to 1.
- If we do not take strong measures to address the matters that impact child sexual abuse, this issue will continue to impact our community and will only negatively impact Hawai'i's future, people, keiki, communities, culture, economy, reputation, commerce, and industries.

Suggested legislation has already been presented and has come through the legislature in previous years, which we strongly support. We believe that with Erin's Law, we can focus on prevention-oriented education that will empower victims and those who care for them. It is critical to educate students, educators and parents about how to recognize and identify child sexual abuse so that victims can be identified early and so that support can be put in place to significantly reduce the likelihood of the long-term adverse issues and costs of the above listed items.

In most cases the only "information" a child is getting on this issue is from their perpetrator. They are being taught to keep the matter private with threats of harm to them or their family. Children rarely report abuse and are told it was their fault. Passing the law is the only way that we can provide the education and tools to children to speak up and seek help. Again we appreciate and applaud the willingness to work towards this important legislation. Our schools

provide the conduit for the proper age-appropriate education to be delivered on a consistent basis and are the primary connections between keiki, parents and communities.

Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot do this to our keiki. While a working group is well-intentioned and appreciated, we think that passing and implementing Erin's Law is the right and best thing to do. There is no argument against it – cost, time, safety, health all support passing Erin's Law when we get the chance next session. 35 States have passed Erin's Law, and it has been introduced or is pending in the 15 remaining states, including Hawaii. Let's not be the last state to pass this law.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and testify in **support of SR 52 and SCR 74**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

LATE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Chair

Sen. Donna Kim, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 22, 2019

TIME: 2:45 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members,

We strongly support the enactment of Erin's Law and are saddened that bills to implement this critical legislation to protect children from predators failed to receive a hearing, again, this Session.

I have heard Erin Merryn speak about the devastating abuse that she experienced at the hands of a trusted neighbor. I heard about how she had no words to explain to her parents or teachers what was happening to her. During legislative hearings I heard the pain of victims who bared their souls before the committees in poignant pleas to provide mandatory education to shed light on this dark part of our society.

So – while we support SCR 74, this resolution to continue the effort with a task force, we are mindful that much time has elapsed since this was first proposed and while the Legislature is deliberating, children are still being abused in unacceptable numbers.

Please pass this bill out of committee. May it foster the political will to actually address the problem.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition